EDINBURGH University Press

The Founders of the Company of Scotland

Author(s): George Pratt Insh

Source: *The Scottish Historical Review*, Jul., 1928, Vol. 25, No. 100 (Jul., 1928), pp. 241-254

Published by: Edinburgh University Press

Stable URL: https://www.jstor.org/stable/25525860

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at https://about.jstor.org/terms

Edinburgh University Press is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Scottish Historical Review*

JSTOR

This content downloaded from 193.52.103.21 on Sat, 03 Feb 2024 10:12:39 +00:00
All use subject to https://about.jstor.org/terms

The Founders of the Company of Scotland.

IN a paper entitled ' The Founding of the Company of Scotland Trading to Africa and the Indies,' printed in the *Scottish Historical Review*,[1] I discussed the question of the influence of Anglo-Scottish merchants on the policy of the Scottish Parliament that led to the passage, in 1693, of the ' Act for Encouraging of Forraigne Trade,'[2] and, two years later, of the celebrated ' Act for a Company Tradeing to Affrica and the Indies '[3]—the Act which established the Company to-day generally referred to as the Darien Company. Since the publication of that paper I have had, through the courtesy of Miss Balfour-Melville of Pilrig, an opportunity of examining the papers of James Balfour, who took a leading part in the activities of the Company of Scotland—who was, indeed, as the papers clearly show, the virtual founder of the Company. These manuscripts have been preserved in a little iron chest in Pilrig House.[4] In a striking fashion the papers of James Balfour confirm the view which I have advanced of the part played in 1693 by English—or at least Anglo-Scottish—influence in shaping Scottish economic policy, but they also reveal, in a most emphatic manner, the fact that the native Scottish impulse towards participation in foreign trade was much stronger, and had a much more precisely defined objective, than historians have hitherto suspected.

I

The first two documents here printed are concerned with efforts made in 1693 and 1694 to carry out the policy put forward

[1] Vol. xxi. p. 288.

[2] *A.P.S.* vol. ix. p. 314.

[3] *Ibid.* vol. ix. p. 377.

[4] To Mr. E. W. M. Balfour-Melville of Edinburgh University, who drew my attention to the existence of these papers, and to Miss Balfour-Melville of Pilrig, who has courteously permitted me to examine the manuscripts, and has consented to their publication, I am deeply grateful.

This content downloaded from
193.52.103.21 on Sat, 03 Feb 2024 10:12:39 +00:00
All use subject to https://about.jstor.org/terms

in the 'Act for Encouraging of Forraign Trade' of 14th June, 1693. Two days before passing the Act for Foreign Trade the Estates had passed the 'Act for Setling the Quiet and Peace of the Church'[5]; the very day of the passing of the Foreign Trade Act had witnessed also the passing of an 'Act in favour of the Town of Edinburgh for an Imposition on Ale and Beer,'[6] and an 'Act anent the right marking and measuring of Linen Cloath.'[7] But quite as arresting as its dramatic emergence from the welter of the old and the commonplace is its complete isolation. It had stood alone in its reference to overseas projects on the 'Inventar of petitions, acts, etc., depending befor the comity of trade in Mr. John MacLarens custody, and to which he is Clerk.'[8] It is true that during the spring of 1693 another matter closely allied to the general principle of the Act had engaged the attention of the Committee of Trade: on 3rd May it was 'noted that a foraign plantation be setled after the mater is considered by his Majesties' high Commissioner and the Secretarie and a draught of the maner how it should be done presented to the comity'[9]; but other business intervened and the project was dropped.

Quite as striking as the isolation of the Foreign Trade Act in the legislation of the session of 1693 is the total lack of any political provision of a similar type between it and the Act of 1695 constituting the Company of Scotland. The Estates were, of course, prorogued on the day immediately following the passage of the Foreign Trade Act, and did not re-assemble until the 9th of May, 1695; but the Privy Council was practically in permanent session, and its Register contains no reference to any effort to follow up the policy that found its expression in the Foreign Trade Act: the Act would appear, if we are to judge from the Government Records, to have been no more effectual than the project for a foreign plantation.

The chief significance of the two documents that follow is that they reveal the persistent activity of those who were eager to find new markets for Scotland's manufactures, and that they show the steps taken to pursue the policy referred to in general terms in the Act. The first is endorsed: 'A List of Subscriptions for Careing one a trade to the Africa and the Indies.' Though the text of the document contains no date the fact that two of the

[5] *A.P.S.* vol. ix. p. 303.
[6] *Ibid.* vol. ix. p. 310.
[7] *Ibid.* vol. ix. p. 311.
[8] *Register House and Supplementary Parl. Papers*, vol. xiv. (1691-1693). No. 98.
[9] *Ibid.* No. 99.[2]

This content downloaded from
193.52.103.21 on Sat, 03 Feb 2024 10:12:39 +00:00
All use subject to https://about.jstor.org/terms

subscribers added the date to their signature enables us to ascribe it to the year 1693.

Wee: Undersubscryvers, merchants in Edinburgh, considering the great advantage that may redound to this natione by promoting a trade to the coast of Africa, America and other fouraign parts: And the Incouradgment given therto by the late act of parliament, Doe Therfor Commissionate.... To prosecute the sd. affair untill a patent be obtained from ther Majesties for that effort: And for the relief of the charges to be debursed on the sd. affair each of us have advanced one guinea in part. And obliges us and each one of us, to pay our equall part of the sume that the chairg debursed on the sd. affaire shall amount to amongst the whole persones that shall subscryve heir or elsewhere, the sum not exceeding three guineas each persone except with the consent of each particular subscryver. And the persone not willing to contribute further shall only forfault the sd. three guineas.

*Ro: Cheislie[10]
John Schan
*Hugh Blair
*Rot Watson
*Cha. Charteris
Will. Blackwood
*Alexr. Stevinsone
*John Gray
*Geo: Warrender
*A. Cunninghame

*Pat: Aikenhead
*Jo: Wilkie
*H. Rollo
Jon Jonston
*James Gordon
Senior
*Al. Innes and
for *James Byres
*Wm. Meinzeis
*John Swinton
of yt Ilk
*Robert Douglas

*Andrew Myertone
*Geo: Clark
*Archd. Durham
James Graham
*Ro: Blackwood
*Rt: Dicksone
*Alexr. Hope
*Alexander Brand
*Archd. Cockburn
*Patrick Thomson
*J. Duncan
Wm. Pater
† son

G. Hamilton
*Geo. Clerke
(1693)
*R. Blackwood Jr.
*James Balfour
A. Monteith
James Nairne
(1693)
*Ch. Divvie
*John Majoribanks
*John Watsonn Jr.
*Wil. Areskine
*Jo: Watson
*Jo: Dick
*James Majoribanks
*Jo: Geills
Archd. Galt
*Will Hay.

Of the many features of interest revealed by this document two are of outstanding importance. The signature of William Paterson is striking corroboration of the suggestion of the influence of the London merchants on the economic aspirations of

[10] * Subscribers to the Company of Scotland ('A Perfect List of the Several Persons Residentes in Scotland, who have subscribed as adventurers in the joynt-stock of the Company of Scotland Trading to Africa and the Indies: Edinburgh, 1696').

† Further proof of Anglo-Scottish influence at this time is to be found in the following item in the "Accompt" of Robert Blackwood and James Balfour, under date 1693:

"To Cash for £24 pyed for writing severall dubels of ye act of parlement and ye patent and charges in sending them to London." (See page 249.)

This content downloaded from
193.52.103.21 on Sat, 03 Feb 2024 10:12:39 +00:00
All use subject to https://about.jstor.org/terms

Scotland, and the fact that thirty-eight out of the forty-eight who signed this document are later to be found among the subscribers to the Company of Scotland—and many of them large subscribers —shows clearly that here we are dealing with the movement that is the real beginning of the larger scheme.

The second document, which is endorsed 'Signatur for Ane African trade And Company, 1694,' makes clear the direction which the efforts of these pioneers took: this document is referred to in the "Accompt" of Robert Blackwood and James Balfour—To Cash for £66 givine to ye Advocat and his men for draweing the patent—and several copies were sent to London.

Our Soveraign Lord and Lady Taking into their Consideration That by an act past in the Last session of the Current parliament, Intituled Act for incureidging of Forraigne trade, Their Majesties considering how much the improvement of trade concerns the welth and weelfare of this their Ancient Kingdome, And that nothing hath been found mor effectuall for the improveing and inlarging thereof thin the Erecting and incuraging of Companyes, whereby the same may be Caryed on by wndertakers to the remotest pairts, which it is not possible for single persones to wndergoe, DID THEREFOR with Advyce and consent of the said Estates of parliament Statut and declair that merchants mor or fewer may contract and enter into Societies and Companyes for Carying on A trade as to any subject or sort of goods or merchandise to whatsomever kingdomes countries or pairts of the world not being in warr with their Majesties wher trade is in use to be or may be followed, And particularly besyds the Kingdomes and Countries of Europe, to the east and west Indies, to the Straits, and trade in the mediterranien upon the coast of Affrick or nothern pairts or else wher as above, Which societies and companyes being contracted and entered into upon the terms and in the usuall maner as such Companyes are sett up and in use in other pairts, Consistent alwayes with the Laues of this kingdome, Their Majesties with Consent forsaid did allow and Approve, GIVEING AND GRANTING to them and each of them all powers rights and priviledges as to their persones rules and orders that by the Laues are given to companies allowed to be erected for manufactories/AND FARDAR. Their Majesties for their greater incuragment did upon the serious recommendation of the estates of parliament promise to give to these companies and each of them Their Letters patent wnder the great seall Confering to them the wholl forsaids pouers and priviledges with what other incuradgment Their Majesties should judge needfull, and in the forme and with the Solemnities in such caices accustomed as the forsaid act of parliament at mor lenth proposes And Their Majesties wnderstanding that the persones afternamed have entered into a Society and Company among themselves in the terms of the forsaid act of parliament ffor carrying on A trade to the Coast of Affrica, As also to America and such other pairts of the one and other wher they may freely exercise their said trade, And being most willing to give them the incuragment promised by the forsaid act of parliament DOE THEREFOR

This content downloaded from
193.52.103.21 on Sat, 03 Feb 2024 10:12:39 +00:00
All use subject to https://about.jstor.org/terms

ORDAINE A Signatur to be made and past wnder the great seall of the said Ancient Kingdome In favour of . . . And such others, whom they shall Assume and who shall com in and joyn with them within . . . years after the date of thir presents / ALLOWING AND APPROVEING Ther entering into the said Society and Company. Lykeas Their Majesties doe heirby allow and approve ther entring into the said society and Company in the termes of the said act, Lykeas Their Majesties for ther greater incuragment doe heirby erect, creat and constitut the forsaids persones above:named and others who shall be assumed by and come in and joyn with them within the space forsaid in A society and company to be called in all tyme heirafter the . . . Giving and Granting to them, Lykeas Their Majesties be tbe tenor heirof Give and grant to them fful power to trade into the coast of Affrick and to America and to such pairts of the one or other as are free in mainer forsaid with such goods Comodities and merchandize and to make and bring such goods therefra as they shall find most to their advantage, Noewayes contrare to the Laues and Statuts of the said Kingdome, And to the end forsaid to sease upon and possess such pairts plaices or Isles upon the saids coasts or in the Continent, or on the coasts of America As they shall find voyd and not alreidy possest by our subjects or any of our Allyes, Or if possest as they shall Laufully purchase for the better establishing and advancing of the said trade, which occupationes, possessiones, and purchases, Their Majesties doe heirby confirme willing and ordaining the same to be a good and Compleit right to the forsaid Company and ther successors for ever WITH POWER to thim to build houses of all sorts thereupon, as also to build and erect forts of whatsoever sysse or name necessary for ther oune defense, and to furnish the same with cannons and all other amunition and warlike provisiones as they shall find needfull, and to Leavie and Arme Souldiers, and Appoynt them officers for the keeping of the saids forts, And to kill and destroy any who shall violently attaque or invade them either by sea or land, but alwayes wpon their oune Charges and expenses, As also to build harbours and seaports for ther shipping and goods, and to impose and exact such Customes wpon themselves and others trading with them and coming into the saids ports and harbours, As shall be needful for manteening of the samen, And Lykewayes to sett out and equipp not only merchand ships but ships of warr with great gunns and all provisions needful for the safety and security of ther said trade, And Their Majesties give to the said Company and ther successors ther royall protectiones and full Assurance thereof in the exercise of ther said trade and in the wholl premises, promising to protect, defend and manteen them against all who shall offer to molest disturb attaque assaile or any wayes injure them in the free injoying using and exercing of the haill premises LYKEAS Their Majesties heirby discharge all others his subjects, and requires all his allyes, not to molest, vex, disturbe or wrong the said Company and ther successors in their said trade, possessiones and purchases as they will be answerable; And generally without prejudice to the forsaid specialities, Their Majesties give and grant to the said Company and ther successors, all other rights, pouers, privilidges, liberties and immunities that are in use to be given or laufully used or possessed be any companny of the lyke nature and mor

This content downloaded from
193.52.103.21 on Sat, 03 Feb 2024 10:12:39 +00:00
All use subject to https://about.jstor.org/terms

particularly by the Inglish African Company, As also all pouers rights and priviledges as to ther persones, rules, and orders that by the laues are given to companyes alloued to be erected for manufactories, willing and admitting the whole forsaids rights, pouers, priviledges, liberties, and immunities to be alse weel and validly granted as if heir particularly expresst and sett doune HOLDING AND FOR TO HOLD the forsaid Company and their successors the wholl Rights and pouers heirby to them granted, with the places, forts, seaports, harbours, and others which they shall possess and purchase as said is to them and ther successors, Of ws and our Successors alse freely quietly weel and in peace without any reddendo whatsomever Excepting Alleagance and deutie as good subjects, And to the Effect that the forsaid Company and their Successors may the better cary one the forsaid trade, and manadge the wholl forsaids rights, possessions and interests, that they may heirafter have or acquire, Their Majesties impowers them to meet at Edinburgh as the place appoynted for ther Generall meettings in all tyme coming upon the . . . day of . . . for the first tyme and soe furth from tyme to tyme as they shall think fitt to appoyne and ther Choose by free vott of the plurality, A president and twelve Assistants, with ane thesaurer, Clark, and other officers usuall and needfull, with pouer to the saide President Assistants and Company and plurality thereof To make such rules and statutes for themselves and the better manadging and Carying on ther trade as they shall find expedient, Agreeable alwayse to and Consistent with the Laws and Acts of Parliament, As also to Appoynt such voluntar Collections as they shall all agree to for the good of the Society and Carying on of the said trade, As also to appoynt by the plurality such fynes and amerciaments as may conduce to the observeing of these rules and keeping of good order, All which rules and orders with the forsaids collectiones and fines shall be put in execution, administrat, wplifted and disposed wpon by the said president and his Assistants and the Thesauer or major pairt of them as they shall be ansuerable to the Generall meetting, And for the better uplifting of the said amerciaments and fines, Their Majesties impour the said president and his Assistants to give precepts to ther officers for poynding and to the saids officers to poynd, The vallew to be poynded for not exceeding Thretty pound Scots, And in caise it doe exceed, Then Their Majesties require the magistrats of the plaice or other Judges or officers of the Laues to give them the Assistance and Concurrence needfull ffor makeing the same effectuall, As also with power to the said president, Assistants and Companies to purchase halls, storehouses and other houses for ther convenience in any brugh within this kingdom, As also to purchase, brook and enjoy for themselves and ther successors all Lands heretages and other rights whatsomever, sicklyke and also freely as any particular free subject may doe within this kingdom, And also Their Majesties allow the said Company and their president and Assistants to have and use ane Comon seall in such caices wherein the same shall be requisite, Declaring the Cognisance of the said Company to be ingraven wpon the said seall and used wpon all ther occasions, shall be such as Their Majesties Lyon King at Armes shall Appoynt as suteable to the said Society, and Their Majesties promises in verbo premissis (*sic*) to ratifie this present gift of Erection in

This content downloaded from
193.52.103.21 on Sat, 03 Feb 2024 10:12:39 +00:00
All use subject to https://about.jstor.org/terms

this Current or any other ensueing parliament of the said Kingdome, And wills and ordaines the samen to pass in exchequer and to pass the great seall per saltum In doeing whereof these shall be a sufficient warrant

GIVEN ATT

To the student of Scottish economic history two references in this draft 'Signatur' are of special significance:

'Their Majesties impowers them to meet at Edinbrugh as the place appoynted for ther Generall meetings in all tyme coming.' What is here envisaged is evidently a definitely Scottish Company: anything of the nature of the arrangement which fixed the Headquarters of the Company of Scotland in London (August-December, 1695) was not for a moment contemplated.

'Their Majesties give and grant to the said Company and ther successors, all other rights, powers, privilidges, liberties, and immunities that are in use to be given or laufully used or possessed be any companny of the lyke nature and now particularly by the Inglish Affrican Company.' For the Scottish interest at this time in the English African Company—and the 'Signatur' shows clearly that the Scots were familiar with both the constitution of that Company and its trading methods—two reasons suggest themselves.

(1) The comparative vulnerability of the African Company. It was in this very year, 1694, that the directors of the Company, conscious of certain weaknesses in their position, sought powers from the English Parliament to strengthen themselves. They were already feeling the strain of the attacks of those who, disappointed in their effort to break through the monopoly of the East India Company, had turned their attention to what promised to be a less doughty adversary.[1] And one of the recommendations of the House of Lords, after consideration of the menace to English trade that seemed to be implied in the 'Act lately passed in Scotland, for establishing an East India Company there' was 'that a Bill be prepared to establish a Company trading to Africa, with such Powers and Privileges as shall be proper to obviate the Inconveniences that may otherwise arise by the Scotch Act.'[2]

(2) The possibilities of finding in an African trade an outlet for the products of the growing Scottish woollen industry. The importance of the African trade in stimulating the English

[1] Scott, W. R., *The Constitution and Finance of English, Scottish, and Irish Joint-Stock Companies to* 1720, vol. ii. p. 21.

[2] *Journals of the H. of L.*, vol. xv. p. 618.

This content downloaded from 193.52.103.21 on Sat, 03 Feb 2024 10:12:39 +00:00
All use subject to https://about.jstor.org/terms

woollen industry was admitted,[3] and the report of the Committee to whom the examination and consideration of the Petition of the African Company had been referred contains some significant references to this: 'Mr. Boone, the Sub Governor,' it was recorded, 'did produce to the Committee, under the Hand of the Searcher of the Custom-house, An Account of Says and Perpetuanas shipped off for Guinea in the Port of London, from 1665 to 1670: And also An abstract of the Woolen Manufactures yearly exported by the Company, from the year 1673 to 1693.'[4]

Now the person primarily responsible for the Scottish Foreign Trade Act of 1693 was Robert Blackwood, who had taken a prominent part in the establishment and development of the New Mills Cloth Company: with him in his efforts to promote foreign trade were associated a number of his fellow-directors of the New Mills Company. It can hardly be doubted that these men were looking to Africa as a market for Scottish woollen goods.

II

The second two documents relate to the 'Act for a Company tradeing to Affrica and the Indies' of 1695. The first of these details the expenditure entailed in securing the passage of the Act through the Scottish Parliament. All that has hitherto been known concerning this is contained in the statement made by Roderick Mackenzy, the Secretary of the Company, to the Committee of the House of Commons: 'That he knows not what Methods were used in procuring this Act, but has heard That the Fees, in passing the same, did amount to about £150 [stg.].'[5]

From the records of expenses kept on little scraps of paper James Balfour wrote out a scroll copy of his complete expenses: from this scroll a fair copy was made by another hand, and this fair copy is reproduced; where possible it is annotated by the accounts kept on separate papers. Balfour's reckoning is in Scottish coinage.

ACCOMPT OF MONY SPENT IN PROCURING THE ACT OF PARLEMENT FOR THE AFRECANE TREAD.

To Cash for £180 spent by Mr Robert Bleckwood on the managing and Careing one that afaire befor I was concerned £180 – 0 – 0

[3] Cunningham, W., *The Growth of English Industry and Commerce in Modern Times*, Part I. The Mercantile System, p. 274.

[4] *Journals of H. of C.*, vol. xi. p. 115. [5] *Journals of H. of C.*, vol. xi. p. 400.

This content downloaded from 193.52.103.21 on Sat, 03 Feb 2024 10:12:39 +00:00
All use subject to https://about.jstor.org/terms

1693.

Jany. 12.	To Cash for £55. givine Sir James Stewart for drawing the act of parlement and his 3 men and spent with them	£55 – 0 – 0
	To Cash for £14:10s given to his Grace ye Duck of Hameltoun's servants	£14 – 10 – 0
	To Cash for £6:2s given John Cors in Glasgow to pay for writing of some dubels of the act and spent in Seder [cyder]	£6 – 2 – 0
	To Cash for £66 givine to ye Advocat and his men for draweing the patent	£66 – 0 – 0
	To Cash for £24 pyed for writing severall dubels of ye act of parlement and ye patent and charges in sending them to London in all	£24 – 0 – 0
	To Cash for £15 spent with severall members of parlement at sundrie occations in goeing about sead Efaire and att severall mittings with some concerned and postages of Letters	£15 – 0 – 0
1695 Jany.	To Cash for £160 : 15 : 04 pyed to Mr Robert Bleckwood which he payed out to Sir James Stewart, Sir James Ogilvie and ther servants and some other small charges as per account [6]	£160 – 15 – 4
June 10.	To Cash for £2 : 2s spent with Mr James Chisley and Thomas Couts in widow Grahams.	£2 – 2 – 0
	To Cash for £8 : 18s spent at Patrick Steils that day at a metting of ye parteners	£8 – 18 – 0
	To Cash £2 : 18s. pyed to ye dore keepers of the	

[6] The details of Mr. Robert Blackwood's expenses are preserved on a separate paper.

Accompt payt out in prosecuting the
Act of Parliament in favor of a Company
to trade to the Indies and to Africa.

	Lib. Sh. P.
Payt the advocat in consulting y^e^ drawing it 20 rix dollers. To Sr. James Ogilvy 12 rix dollers. To Mr Spenss his man 3 rix dollers. To Mr Ro^t^ Patersone 2 rix dollers. To Sir James Ogilvie's man 2 rix dollers. To 2 boys half doller each	116 – 00 – 0
For mayking 3 doubles on lumbard paper, 3 rix dollers	008 – 19 – 0
Spent June 11 in Ross 4 lib 10s, and in Grahams 8	004 – 18 – 0
Gave the elder Mr John McKenzie 6 rix dollers	017 – 08 – 0
Spent June 15th in the ship at a meeting of Committy	004 – 18 – 0
For wrytting 24 copies for a meeting	000 – 12 – 0
Payt Mr John McKenzies man at wrieting copy patent	002 – 16 – 0
Spent with Swintoun, Sir John Shawe, etc. on June 28th	003 – 09 – 0
	158 – 10 – 0
Re^d^ 4 rix dollers	11 – 12 – 0
	146 – 18 – 0
I now spent in Rosses 18th day (June) at a meeting to arrange filling up ye names	02 – 05 – 0
	149 – 03 – 0

This content downloaded from
193.52.103.21 on Sat, 03 Feb 2024 10:12:39 +00:00
All use subject to https://about.jstor.org/terms

	Exchakquer hous where the Cometie of tread did mite	£2 – 18 – 0
	To Cash for £7 : 14s payed at a meiting in Thomas Arnots when our busenes was befor the Comety of trade	£7 – 14 – 0
14.	To Cash for £11 : 19s. pyed att a Generall metting in William Ross hous where the provost Baleis and most of the Gentelmen concerned wear present	£11 – 19 – 0
19.	To Cash for £4 – 19 – 04 spent at Mrs Graham's hous in company with ye provost of Glasgow and severall Glasgow men	£4 – 19 – 0
20.	To Cash for 8s 4d spent at McLurgs Cofehous with ditto	8 – 4
	To Cash for £3 : 1s given to Mr Robt. Bleckwood which he payed for 2 doubels of the patents	£3 – 1 – 0
	To Cash for £17 : 08s pyed to Sir James Justice	£17 – 8 – 0
	To Cash for £2 : 18s pyed to Sir James Justice man	2 – 18 – 0
June 21.	To Cash for £3 : 09 : 06 spent in ye Cofehous with Baly George Clerck and others and at Patrick Steels in company with Mr Diens, Mr Couts and Mr Robt. Bleckwood	£3 – 9 – 6
22.	To Cash £33 : 5s. pyed to Mr Robt. Bleckwood which he spent in dining with soune of the members of ye Comety of trade and others as per accompt.[7]	£33 – 5 – 0

[7] The menu of June 22, 1695.

(The Bill paid by Mr Blackwood)

Dyn. Rowme

for Lambhead and a byt of mowton and broth	01 – 00 – 00
for hering	00 – 10 – 06
for a giget & Loyn of mowton	02 – 09 – 06
for 3 dwcks	01 – 16 – 00
for 3 chickens wth goosberrys	01 – 09 – 06
for fillet	00 – 08 – 00
for oyle	00 – 12 – 00
for fruit and chese	01 – 00 – 00
for wyne	18 – 00 – 00
for bread and ale	01 – 09 – 00
for tobaco and pypes	00 – 06 – 00
for peaper	00 – 00 – 06
for Fr. brandy	00 – 12 – 00
for the Cook	00 – 02 – 00
	28 – 19 – 00
for wyn fre[nch] the bill	03 – 12 – 00
	32 – 11 – 00
boy	14 – 0
	33 – 05 – 0

[This menu is printed on p. 58 of *The Balfours of Pilrig*, by Miss Balfour-Melville.]

This content downloaded from
193.52.103.21 on Sat, 03 Feb 2024 10:12:39 +00:00
All use subject to https://about.jstor.org/terms

23.	To Cash for £25 pyed to Mr Robt. Bleckwood which he spent in Company with ye secretar and others.[8]	£25 – 0 – 0
24.	To Cash for £3 : 15s. pyed at ye Ship in reiding Mr Paterson's letter in Company with ye provost, Baly Clerk, Mr Dins, Mr Couts and Mr Robt. Bleckwood	£3 – 15 – 0
		£649 – 02 – 02
	Brought Over	£649 – 02 – 02
	To Cash for £127 : 12s. given the Comitioners servants in drinck money	£127 – 12 – 0
	To Cash for £2 : 2s Given to Mr Robt. Bleckwood which he payed for Corecting 12 doubels of our act	£2 – 2 – 0
	To Cash for £11 : 17s. spent at the sone and for Cofe and otherways befor we went to ye abie	£11 – 17 – 0
1695.		
Jully 8.	To Cash for £3 : 3s. spent with Sir John Swinton, Mr Deans and others in reiding Mr foulls Leter	£3 – 3 – 0
13.	To Cash for £82 : 13s. Given the advocat and his men for drawing ane act to Impouer Majestrats, Incorporations, and Tutors of Minors to venter in this Company	£82 – 13 – 0
	To Cash for £21 : 02s pyed for prenting 300 dubels of ye patent and drinck money to ye servants	£21 – 2 – 0
26.	To Cash for £2 : 15s. spent with ye Londoners and Glasgow men at Michels when we came from the Abie	£2 – 15 – 0
	To Cash for £17 : 08s. Given in drinck money to ye presedent of ye parlements servants	£17 – 8 – 0
	To Cash for £7. spent at night Efter our act was touched att Michels	£7 – 0 – 0

[8] At the Ship in Company with the Secretar

ffr a dish of fowll w[th] gousberyes	05 – 14 – 0
ffr 2 lobsters	01 – 04 – 0
ffr a dish of couttlets	02 – 08 – 0
ffr sparagrass	01 – 04 – 0
ffr bread and ale	00 – 18 – 0
ffr sugar	00 – 06 – 0
ffr pype and tobaco	
ffr alo. to ye cook	00 – 02 – 0
ffr servants	00 – 16 – 0
	23 – 08 – 0
ffr fr[ench] wyne	01 – 16 – 0
	25 – 4 – 0
the boyes	– 8 – 0
	25 – 12 – 0

This content downloaded from
193.52.103.21 on Sat, 03 Feb 2024 10:12:39 +00:00
All use subject to https://about.jstor.org/terms

To Cash for £570 : 17 : 04 pyed for pasing our patent through the sealls as per accompt is [9] £570 – 17 – 0

To Cash for £29. (*sic*) pyed mor for prenting 400 Dubels of our patent £24 – 01 – 2

26. To Cash spent att sundrie occations since ye beginning of this Efear untill now with severall members of Parlement and severall subscryvers of which I did kipe no particular accompt[10] and for omitions which I compute in all to be £600 – 00 – 00
and [*added in James Balfour's own writing*] for Mr Robert Bleckwood and my own trobell and atendance both in the year 1693 & 1695
Suma totall is 2119£ 12^{s} – 8^{d} [1]

Endorsed :
Acompt of depursements be Mr. Robert Bleckwood and Ja. Balfour for promoving ane Act of parlement for careing one a tread to Africa and the Indes.

[9] Jully 1695. Accompt of the Charges given out in passing the Patent of the American and Affrican Company under the King's Great Seal.

		Lib.
Imp.	To the Director of the Chancellorie	100 – 00 – 00
	To the Clerk yrof	050 – 00 – 0
	For parchment, translateing the gift, registrance of the same at the register, and drinkmoney at the said Office	058 – 00 – 0
	To the Lord High Chancellor	200 – 00 – 0
	To his usher, a third thereof	066 – 13 – 4
	To Mr Dicksone, keeper of the great seal, 14 rix dollers	040 – 12 – 0
	To Mr Thomas Aikman for wax and appending	008 – 14 – 0
	Summa	523 – 19 – 4
	The wreater who exped. the patent and attend the same and for his part to the companies Discretione	029 – 00 – 00
	This is besydes accidentally (*sic*) spending	15 – 00 – 0
	[Added in another hand] which was in company with Balfour, Menzies, Mr Robert Blackwood and others For houpes	02 – 18 – 0
		579 – 17 – 4

Endorsed :
Accompt of Passing the Seals, Jully 1695.

[10] 'To Money spent at many occations of which I did keep no accompt. Since the beginning of this Afear untill now in promoving subscriptions from many, in going to Glasgow, attending the subscriptions ther, and also at Edinburgh all the time, and spent with the Londoners at severall treats in Edinburgh' (Scroll copy).

[1] As James Balfour reckoned his expenses in Scots money, his total corresponds approximately to the sum mentioned by Roderick Mackenzie as representing the expenses involved in securing the passage of the Act.

This content downloaded from 193.52.103.21 on Sat, 03 Feb 2024 10:12:39 +00:00
All use subject to https://about.jstor.org/terms

Not a line of this document is without the greatest interest to the student of the period.

The second of the documents relating to the Act of 1695 reveals the activities of the Scottish promoters in arranging for carrying out the provisions of the Act. It is endorsed, 'Subscriptions for Careing one a Trade to the Africa and Indies.'

Wee, Undersubscryvers Having Resolved and Agreed to enter as members into the Company Intituled the Company of Scotland trading to the Indies and Africa, Doe each of us Ingadg therin for the sume added to our subscriptiones heirto subjoyned And farder have advanced each of us the sume of Three pounds sterling at our subscrybing heirof, But with this declaratione, That in caice any of us shall not be satisfied with the rules to be agreed and setled by the plurality of us, and declair his said dissent within Threttie daies efter the conclusion of them, and intimatione thereof to us, Then the persone dissatisfied is only to forfaull the Three pound sterling advanced and to be free and no farder obliged. With this provision also, That any may advance what he pleases more than what he now subscryves for, not exceeding three thousand pounds sterling, or may notwithstanding of what he now subscryves, restrict the same to any sume not under one Hundred pound sterling.

Ad. Cokburne for ane hunder lib stg: returned
John Swinton for two hundred pounds: now for three hundred pounds
Geo. Clark for five hundred pounds stg.
R. Blackwood for five hundred pound.
Ro^{t}. Watson for five hundred pound stg.
James Balfour for five hundred pound sterling.
Robert Johnstone for one hundred pund starlg.
John Watson for fyve hundred pounds sterling: returned.*
Jo. Watson for fyve hundreth pounds sterling.†
Alexander Brand for five hundered pound sterlinge.
Alex^{r} James and Thos. Bayers for ffyve hundreth pounds sterling.
Jo: Wilkie for fyve hundered punds sterlling.
Pat. Aikenhead for ffyve hundred pounds sterling.
Hugh Blair for fyve hundred pound sterling.
H. Rollo for five hundered pound sterling.
W^{m}. Meinzeis for fyve hundreth pounds sterling: returned
Will. Blackwood for two hunder pound sterl:
Robert Welwood for fyve hundred pounds sterling.
Jo. Dick ffor ffyve hundretj pounds sterling.
Andrew Meyrtone for fyve hundred pound stgl.
Alex. Stevenson for fyve hundred pound sterling.
John Gray ffor fyve hundreth pound sterling.
Robert Douglas for thre houndred pound stel.
A. Monteith for two hundred pounds sterling.
Patrick Thomson for fyve hunder pound sterling.

This content downloaded from
193.52.103.21 on Sat, 03 Feb 2024 10:12:39 +00:00
All use subject to https://about.jstor.org/terms

Ch. Divvie for three hundreth pounds sterling.
J. Duncan for fyve hundreth pounds sterling.
Borthwck: for fyve hund. p. s.
Wil. Areskine for four hundred pounds.
Ro. Stewart for three hundreth pounds.

III

As I have pointed out, in the *Introduction to the Darien Shipping Papers* (Sco. Hist. Soc.) William Paterson, though not backward in emphasising the part he had played in establishing the Bank of England, at no time laid claim to be the projector of the Company of Scotland: on one important occasion, indeed, he was at some pains publicly to deny the imputation.[2] Where, then, are we to look for the founder, or founders, of the Company? We have the emphatic assurance of Roderick Mackenzy that 'The projecting the Act for that Company was in Scotland.'[3] And surely the origin of the Company is to be discerned in the efforts of the group of Edinburgh merchants to carry out the policy suggested in the Foreign Trade Act of 1693; and to the two Edinburgh men who were chiefly responsible for carrying the activities begun in 1693 to their conclusion in the securing in 1695 of the 'Act for a Company Tradeing to Affrica and the Indies' must fall the distinction of being regarded as the founders of the Company of Scotland. These two men were Robert Blackwood and James Balfour.

GEORGE PRATT INSH.

[2] *Journals of H. of C.*, vol. xi. p. 400. [3] *Ibid.*

This content downloaded from
193.52.103.21 on Sat, 03 Feb 2024 10:12:39 +00:00
All use subject to https://about.jstor.org/terms